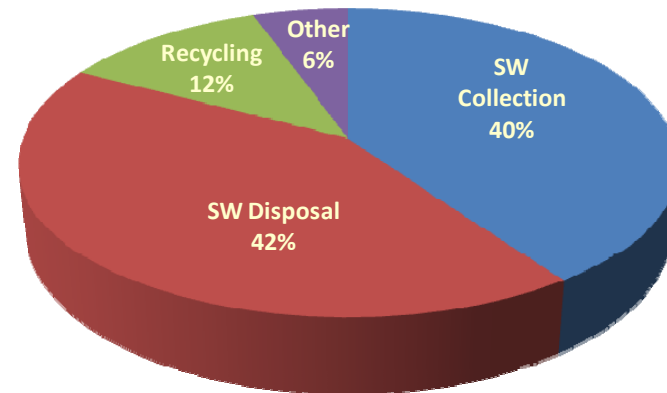


Westford's Current Solid Waste Program

**Total costs in
FY10 :
\$1.56 million**



- Trash collection contract with ACME Waste Systems until August 2010 at annual cost of \$585,000.
- Trash is hauled to incinerator at a cost of \$71.50/ton. For FY09, estimated cost for 9400 tons is \$672,000.
- Recycling collection contract with Integrated Paper Recyclers until August 2010 at annual cost of 185,000.

Why Does Westford Need to Reduce Solid Waste?

1. Waste reduction is the best way to save money in the solid waste budget.
2. Westford sends an average **1.2 tons** of trash per household to the incinerators each year.
3. Each ton of solid waste costs Westford \$71.50 in incinerator fees above fixed trash contract cost.
4. When recycling tonnage increases there is no additional cost to the Town.

Westford's Best Plan of Action

1. The most viable course of action is a Waste Reduction Program (WRP).
2. WRP reduces trash incinerator fees and encourages recycling and composting.
3. WRP would allow each household one 36 gallon barrel/bag per week for non-recyclable, acceptable solid waste. Additional waste would go in specially marked 33 gallon bag(s) purchased by resident.



Other Alternatives Considered

- Status Quo –
 - Town would continue to incur the high cost of trash incinerator fees in addition to fixed trash contract cost.
- Pay-As-You-Throw –
 - Residents would buy bags for all their trash - very costly to residents. No incentive to recycle.
- Automated Trash Collection –
 - Automated collection would include the cost of specialized new trash barrels for every home.
 - These 68-gallon barrels are too large to encourage effective waste reduction in Westford.



Advantages of a Waste Reduction Program

- With just a **20%** reduction in trash tonnage, the Town could save approximately **\$130,000** in incinerator fees.
- Town would receive revenue from specially marked bags which could help offset costs of solid waste program.
- Requires no large investment in infrastructure.
- WRP is more equitable; those who recycle more, pay less.
- Creates incentive for residents to reduce, reuse, and recycle more. Better for the environment.
- Helps to keep recyclables such as cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, and plastic containers out of the trash.



Concerns About Illegal Dumping?

- Waste Reduction Programs have been implemented across the state with most towns reporting no noticeable increase in illegal dumping.
- Education is a key part of minimizing such problems.
- Prompt use of enforcement and fines helps deter any increase in illegal dumping.

Common Questions...

- Where would I buy bags?
 - At specified Town locations such as grocery, hardware, and convenience stores.
- Why is the allowed barrel size 36 gallons max?
 - To qualify for thousands of \$\$\$'s in DEP grant money for start-up expenses, if needed.
- Can I still use my barrels?
 - Yes, if your “allowed” barrel or bag is within the size specifications (36 gallons or less). Additional trash inside specially marked 33 gallon bag(s) purchased by the resident can be left inside any barrel or at curbside.



Next Steps:

- A majority vote at Town Meeting.
- When passed, the Town of Westford will resolve details, set a start date, and begin implementing the Waste Reduction Program.
- The Town would realize substantial savings from reducing costly trash incinerator fees and increase the percentage of recycling.